

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02495 210302Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 SY-05 USSS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00
TRSE-00 PC-01 EB-08 INRE-00 SSO-00 /103 W
-----070030 211652Z /14

R 192100Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2495

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: LEFTIST GROUP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING
AND THREATENS EXECUTION IF POLITICAL DEMANDS NOT MET

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2463

1. FAR LEFT GROUP CALLED ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL RESISTENCE (FARN) ISSUED COMMUNIQUE AFTERNOON MAY 18 STATING THEIR GROUP HAD KIDNAPPED JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN FUJIO MATSUMOTO (SEE REFTTEL) EVENING MAY 17. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT MAQAUMOTO WAS KIDNAPPED AS MEMBER OF BOURGEOISE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM WHICH, LIKE GERMANY AND U.S., EXPLOIT THE UNDERDEVELOPED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. ADDED THAT MATSUMOTO FAMILY AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY WITH A SERIES OF CONDITIONS THAT FARN CONSIDERS TO BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO SALVADORAN PEOPLE. IF DEMANDS NOT MET, COMMUNIQUE STATES MATSUMOTO WILL BE EXECUTED. THE EXACT CONDITIONS FOR
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MATSUMOTO'S RELEASE, FARN STATED, WILL BE ISSUED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. FARN IS SUBGROUP OF RADICAL, EXTREMIST PEOPLES REVOLUTION-ARY ARMY (ERP) WHICH HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR SEVERAL PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS.

3. JAPANESE CHARGE CALLED EMBOFF MAY 19 TO REQUEST INFORMATION FARN AND ITS PREVIOUS HISTORY. HE STATED THAT NO DEMANDS HAVE AS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY KIDNAPPERS, BUT ASSUMED WOULD INCLUDE CALL FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHICH PRESIDENT ROMERO HAS REPEATEDLY STATED DO NOT EXIST. CHARGE ADDED THAT GOJ WAS PREPARED TO PAY ANY RANSOM DEMANDS THAT MIGHT BE LEVIED FOR SAFE RELEASE OF MATSUMOTO, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD OR WOULD DO IF FACED WITH POLITICAL DEMANDS.

4. COMMENT. THREE RECENT UNSOLVED KIDNAPPINGS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF MATSUMOTO, FORCING PRESIDENT ROMERO AND GOES INTO INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE POSITION. FAMILIES NOT COOPERATING WITH SECURITY FORCES AND WANT ONLY SAFE RETURN OF PERSONS KIDNAPPED. GOES SECURITY FORCES HAVE NEITHER MANPOWER NOR TECHNOLOGY TO APPREHEND KIDNAPPERS ON THEIR OWN AND ARE BOXED-IN ON POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE. ALREADY HIGH TENSIONS CONTINUE TO GROW BOTH IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOES. EMBASSY HAS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT, CABINET, AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOES OFFICIALS ARE STILL IN SPECIAL MEETING THAT HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR FIVE HOURS (SINCE 8:00 A.M.). THERE IS KNOWN TO BE SOME SENTIMENT FOR MASSIVE AND PROBABLY REPRESSIVE ACTION BY SECURITY FORCES, BUT PRESIDENT AND APPARENT MAJORITY OF GOES LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY OPPOSED TO THIS LINE OF ACTION. ANY ADDITIONAL TERRORISTS' ACTS AT THIS POINT OR EXECUTION OF MATSUMOTO COULD CHANGE THIS BALANCE. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RETURNING TO EL SALVADOR EVENING MAY 19 AND HAS REQUESTED IN ADVANCE SPECIAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
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ROMERO.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN, COMMUNIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
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